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Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 PC-10 USIA-15 DODE-00

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---------- 068112
R 101650Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7436
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: SAHEL DONORS COORDINATION MEETING

REF: PARIS 0556 (NOTAL)

1. AUDIBERT CONFIRMED TO RDO BARON, DCM BULLEN AND MYSELF LAST EVENING GENERAL LINES OF PARIS REFTEL CONCERNING SAHEL DONOR DROUGHT MEETINGS. ACCORDING AUDIBERT: DAKOURE UNWILLING PARTICIPATE IN ANY JANUARY MEETING OF DONORS SINCE HE PERSONALLY PLANNING CALL DONOR MEETING IN OUAGADOUGOU FOR LATE BEFRUARY. AUDIBERT BELIEVES WE HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO GO ALONG WITH DAKOURE ON THIS.
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2. DAKOURE MENTIONED TO AUDIBERT HIS DESIRE INCLUDE

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MIT IN FEBRUARY MEETING IN ORDER GIVE MIT OPPORTUNITY
PRESENT INITIAL FINDINGS ON MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM
PROGRESS. DAKOURE WILL PRESUMABLY BE DISCUSSING
HIS CONCEPT OF THE MEETING WITH AID OFFICIALS AND WITH
MIT DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO US. AMONG OTHER OBJECTIVES
HE ENVISAGES FOR FEBRUARY MEETING IS PRESENTATION
OF STEINER'S STATUS REPORT FOR MORSE'S SPECIAL SAHELIAN OFFICE
(SSO) ON LIST OF 126
PROJECTS PROPOSED BY CILSS CHEIFS OF STATE IN OUAGA-
DOUGOU IN SEPTEMBER. HE HAS ARRANGED TO MEET AUDIBERT
ON HIS RETURN TRIP THROUGH PARIS JANUARY 21 TO DISCUSS
THE MATTER FURTHER. (COMMENT: WE WONDER WHETHER MIT
WILL CONSIDER ITSELF YET READY TO MAKE A PRESENTATION
BY END FEBRUARY. IN EVENT AID HAS ANY MISGIVINGS IN THIS
REGARD, DAKOURE'S PRESENCE IN US SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY
FOR AID TO ASSURE THAT DAKOURE DOESN'T GO TOO FAR DOWN A ROAD
WE WOULD PREFER NOT TRAVEL JUST YET. CONVERSELY, OUAGADOUGOU
MEETING COULD PROVIDE POSSIBLY USEFUL DEADLINE FOR MIT
PERFORMANCE. COULD ALSO SERVE AS VALUABLE LEARNING
EXPERIENCE IN EVENT MIT PARTICIPATION CONSIDERED
APPROPRIATE IN OBSERVER CAPACITY.)

3. AUDIBERT SAYS THAT ORIGINAL PLAN AS DISCUSSED WITH
ADAMS FOR A SMALL "INFORMAL AND TECHNICAL" WORKINGSESSION OF
FAC, FED, IBRD AND AID OFFICIALS, INTENDED
FOR BRUSSELS IN JANUARY, GOT OFF TRACK WHEN FERRANDI
INSISTED THAT PARTICIPATION BE ENLARGED TO INCLUDE
DAKOURE, OTHER DONORS, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, ETC.
APPARENTLY FED'S DESIRE TO INCLUDE DAKOURE AROSE FROM
FACT THAT FED WANTED DAKOURE AND CILSS TO BLESS FED'S
INFORMAL EARMARKING FOR EACH OF SIX STATES OF NEW FED BUDGET
ALLOCATION OF SOME $30 OR $40 MILLION FOR SAHEL RELIEF.
AUDIBERT SAID FED MAY ALSO HAVE BELIEVED DAKOURE'S
PRESENCE NECESSARY SINCE FED INTENDED THAT CILSS WOULD
PLAY LEADING ROLE IN DECIDING WHICH PROJECTS WOULD BE
FINANCED FOR EACH COUNTRY WITH THE NEW FED MONEY.

4. NEITHER AUDIBERT NOR WE BELIEVE DAKOURE COULD LEGITIMATELY
OBJECT TO INFORMAL WORKING SESSION OF FOUR PRINCIPAL
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DONORS AS ORIGINALLY DISCUSSED, TO BE HELD PERHAPS IN
PARIS, ON EVE OF BEFRUARY DISCUSSIONS PROPOSED BY
DAKOURE. WE SUGGEST HOWEVER THAT SUCH A MEETING BE KEPT
AS LOW KEY AS POSSIBLE LEST DAKOURE'S SENSITIVITIES BE
ONCE AGAIN AROUSED. AUDIBERT WILL BE HERE TIL EARLY
NEXT WEEK, IN EVENT AID/W WISHES EMBASSY TO COMMUNICATE
FURTHER WITH HIM ON THIS QUESTION. WE SUGGEST ISSUE BE
LEFT PENDING CONVERSATIONS WITH DAKOURE IN US. RDO
BARON RETURNING NIAMEY JANUARY 11.

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5. DAKOURE'S REPORTED TRIP TO CHAD APPARENTLY PRO-
VOKED BY HIS CONCERN OVER DROUGHT PROGRAM DISCUSSIONS
RECENTLY CONDUCTED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF LAKE CHAD BASIN
COMMITTEE, WITH TWO CILSS MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN
DECISION-MAKING WITHOUT REFERENCE TO DAKOURE OR CILSS.

6. COMMENT: THERE ARE INCREASING RUMORS IN OUAGA-
DOUGOU (AND I HEARD THEM ALSO FROM MORSE'S OFFICE IN
NEW YORK A MONTH AGO) TO EFFECT THAT DAKOURE WANTS OUT
AND IS ACTIVELY SEEKING SOME UN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL
SAFEHAVEN. HIS ACTIONS AS SAHEL DROUGHT COORDINATOR
APPEAR TO US INCREASINGLY SELF-PROTECTIVE. HE WILL
CONTINUE TRY MAINTAIN TIGHT REIN ON ALL SAHEL DEVELOP-
MENT ACTIVITY THAT IS DROUGHT RELATED BUT WILL TAKE FEW
INITIATIVES ON HIS OWN EXCEPT AS DEFENSE AGAINST
INITIATIVES FROM DONORS. HIS CONSTANT TRAVEL AND CON-
TINUING INACCESSIBILITY ARE OF COURSE CONTRIBUTIVE TO
THIS STRATEGY. THE INCREASING INEFFICIENCY AND
DISORGANIZATION WITHIN THE VOLTAN BUREAUCRACY, PARTICULARLY
THE RESIGNATION A MONTH AGO OF PLAN
COMMISSIONER PHILIPPE OUEDRAOGO AND THE LACK OF INTEREST
DISPLAYED BY HIS SUCCESSOR LOMPOLO KONE, MAKE DAKOURE
ALL THE MORE A BELEAGURED BUREAUCRAT SMART ENOUGH TO
REALIZE HIS PLIGHT BUT INCAPABLE OF TAKING THE NECESSARY
STEPS TO GET OUT OF THE MORASS. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S
RECENT SELECTION OF SALFO-ALBERT BALIMA AS PERSONAL
ADVISOR FOR INTERNATIONAL MATTERS AND PARTICULARLY FOR
SAHEL DROUGHT ACTIVITIES, MAY INDICATE THAT PRESIDENT
AWARE HE CANNOT AFFORD TO PERMIT CONTINUING DRIFT IN
THIS IMPORTANT AREA. BALIMA, A FORMER VOLTAN
BUREAUCRAT OF STATURE UNDER THE PREVIOUS CIVILIAN
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REGIME AND MOST RECENTLY UNDP RESREP IN THE CAR, IS
ENERGETIC AND ABLE BUT MAINTAINS THAT HIS HANDS ARE
TIED BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN UNABLE OBTAIN ANY ACCESS
TO DAKOURE AND NO ONE ALSO KNOWS ANYTHING.
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